

REMARKS

On page 2 of the Action, claims 1-4, 6, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mejlsø.

In view of the rejection, claims 1 and 4 have been amended to clearly distinguish the invention from Mejlsø. Also, new claims 14 and 15 have been filed.

In the Action, it was held that "Mejlsø discloses a hole plug (10)..., wherein in the embodiment of Fig. 9, it is disclosed to have ... a column (37) and; a plurality of wavy plate shaped supporting means (36 and 38) connecting each of the support members to the column."

In this respect, it is clarified in claims 1 and 4 that the column is a cylindrical column projecting from the back surface of the head portion inside the plate members. Therefore, each supporting means is disposed between the cylindrical column and each of the plate members so that the cylindrical column is connected to each of the plate members through each of the supporting means.

In Mejlsø, a fastener 10 is made of a resilient material, and includes a shank 13 and an enlarged head 11. In Fig. 9 referred to by the Examiner, the shank has five limbs 35-39 formed together so as to enclose four slots 40-43, respectively.

In claims 1 and 4, it is defined that the cylindrical column projects from the back surface of the head portion. In Mejlsø, the limb 37 deemed as the column of the invention does not have a cylindrical shape. Also, the wavy plate shaped supporting means 36, 38 referred to by the Examiner are limbs arranged parallel to the limb 37.

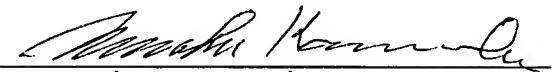
In Mejlsø, as explained at column 2, lines 63-66, the limbs 35-39 are simply arranged generally parallel to each other. The cylindrical column and the supporting means of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in Mejlsø.

Claims 1 and 4 are not anticipated by Mejlsø.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KANESAKA BERNER AND PARTNERS

by   
Manabu Kanesaka  
Reg. No. 31,467  
Agent for Applicants

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 519-9785